

Serial No.: 09/345,659
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

PD-990066

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 28 are now in the application. Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are allowed as previously indicated by the Examiner. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended in a manner consistent with the issues discussed with the Examiner at a telephone interview. In addition, this amendment is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination, as the Examiner indicated that the clarifications being made to the claims raised new issues for search or consideration after final action. As discussed at the interview, the proposed amendments are deemed to place the application in condition for allowance over the current prior art of record, as is discussed in greater detail below.

Applicant's attorney Ronald M. Nabozny and assignee's counsel Georgann S. Grunebach appreciate the Examiner's time and cooperation in conducting a telephonic interview. At the interview, the Examiner was presented with emphasized language of claim 15 and specific references to page 17, line 5 through page 18, line 7 and page 23, line 4 through page 25, line 9 as well as Figures 4 and 5 that particularly illustrate the switch logic input referred to in the claims. While the Examiner acknowledged that the proposal to recite sensing of a plurality of audio signal formats serves to distinguish the input from encoder input shown in the prior art, the Examiner also argued that encoders "adapted to process" appeared ambiguous and could be very broadly interpreted. As a result, the redirecting action referred to in the input logic of the claimed invention has been further defined as referring to a plurality of corresponding encoders as is consistent with the written description and the preferred embodiment shown in Figures 4 and 5. Accordingly, the proposals discussed with the Examiner are included in the formal amendments, and are believed to allowable pending further search that the Examiner considers to be necessary.

In addition, the Examiner argued that the type of sensing being performed by the switch logic input could be expressed in a better format in the dependent claims. Claim 16 has been amended to refer back to the switch logic input having a proper antecedent basis in claim 15. In addition, new claim 28 adds a more specific reference to the switch logic as

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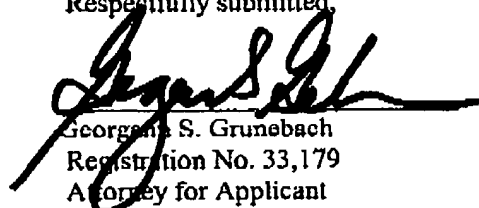
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having a compressor detector without regard to its specific location as previously defined in claim 16. As a result, claims 15, 16 and 28 provide varying levels of additional specificity particularly distinguishing the general teachings of an encoder shown in the prior art of record.

These amendments are made at Applicant's first opportunity to address the Examiner's remarks presented at the telephonic interview, and could not have been made earlier. In addition, while the original claim language describing switch logic input senses audio signal formats and redirects signals to encoders for processing is not supported by the generic descriptions of encoders in the prior art reference relied upon by the Examiner, the new language now clarify that sensing and redirecting distinguish at least two different formats of signals being handled so as to clearly distinguish over the teachings of the prior art of record. The claim amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure as at the cited portions of text and drawing, and do not add new matter to the application. Moreover, the additions place the claims in better condition for allowance or appeal, and are proper for entry under Rule 116.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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